UNITED NATIONS **E**

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.3/1994/1
10 November 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Special session
11-15 April 1994
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Strengthening international statistical cooperation.
4. Implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (1993 SNA).
5. Technical cooperation in statistics.
6. Fundamental principles of official statistics.
7. Coordination and integration of international statistical programmes.
8. Programme questions:
   (a) Programme performance and implementation;
   (b) Programme objectives and planning.
9. Provisional agenda for the twenty-eighth session of the Commission.
10. Report of the Commission on its special session.

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure and past practice, the Statistical Commission will elect, at its first meeting, a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur to serve from the beginning of the special session of the Commission to the beginning of the twenty-eighth session.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

The items on the provisional agenda and the corresponding documentation were considered by the Commission at its twenty-seventh session (New York, 22 February-3 March 1993) 1/ and approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1993/223. The provisional agenda contains those items which the Commission considered particularly urgent. 2/

As requested by the Commission, 3/ the Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination, at its sixteenth session (Geneva, 13-16 September 1993), reviewed the provisional agenda and documentation to ensure that the special session focused on important issues. The Working Group confirmed the need for the five-day special session as originally envisaged by the Commission (E/CN.3/1994/2, para. 37 (c)). The Working Group (a) endorsed the provisional agenda, on the understanding that any overlap between items 3 (Strengthening international statistical cooperation) and 7 (Coordination and integration of international statistical programmes) would be eliminated, and that all the documents would be listed under the appropriate agenda items, (b) approved the outlines and descriptive notes relating to the documents for each agenda item and (c) noted that the documents would need to be prepared by the end of December 1993, which could limit the extent to which the Working Group's comments could be reflected in them (E/CN.3/1994/2, paras. 37 (b) and 38).

The Working Group added the report of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities on its twenty-seventh session, the reports of the task forces established by the Working Group and the report of the Working Group on its sixteenth session to the documentation for agenda item 3, as well as the report on the coordination of statistical data collection from countries, which had been included under agenda item 7 (E/CN.3/1994/2, para. 39).

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session (E/CN.3/1994/L.1)

Note by the Secretariat on the state of preparation of documentation for the session (E/CN.3/1994/L.2)

3. Strengthening international statistical cooperation

The Commission, at its twenty-seventh session, made 19 recommendations and decisions for strengthening international statistical cooperation. 4/ These recommendations and decisions covered actions in respect of the Commission

itself, its Working Group, the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities, the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat and other international statistical organizations, and included the establishment of six inter-agency task forces on specific subjects.

The ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities, at its twenty-seventh session (Geneva, 6-8 September 1993), considered the progress made in several of the areas covered by the recommendations and decisions. The Statistical Commission's Working Group, at its sixteenth session, reviewed progress on all the recommendations and decisions and, inter alia, confirmed the establishment of two additional task forces (E/CN.3/1994/2, paras. 14 and 15). The reports of the Subcommittee and the Working Group will be before the Commission. The Commission will also have before it a number of documents, including documents requested by the Working Group (see E/CN.3/1994/2, para. 39, reporting on the progress made in implementing the recommendations and decisions. These documents will serve as a basis for the Commission to review progress and provide any necessary additional guidance for strengthening international statistical cooperation and development.

Documentation

Report of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination on its sixteenth session (E/CN.3/1994/2)

Report of the Secretary-General on progress in the most critical areas addressed by the Statistical Commission at its twenty-seventh session (E/CN.3/1994/3)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities on its twenty-seventh session (E/CN.3/1994/4)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting reports of the following task forces:

(a) Task Force on National Accounts (Convener: Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts): report on strategies, progress and problems in the implementation of the 1993 SNA (E/CN.3/1994/5)

(b) Task Force on Industrial and Construction Statistics (Convener: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) (E/CN.3/1994/6)

(c) Task Force on International Trade Statistics (Convener: General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) (E/CN.3/1994/7)

(d) Task Force on Finance Statistics (Convener: International Monetary Fund) (E/CN.3/1994/8)

(e) Task Force on Price Statistics, including the International Comparison Programme (Convener: Statistical Office of the European Communities) (E/CN.3/1994/9)

(f) Task Force on Environment Statistics (Convener: Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat) (E/CN.3/1994/10)

(g) Task Force on Service Statistics (Convener: to be determined) (E/CN.3/1994/11)

(h) Task Force on the Measurement of Poverty (Convener: World Bank) (E/CN.3/1994/12)

Report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of statistical data collection from countries (E/CN.3/1994/13)

4. Implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (1993 SNA)

The Commission, at its twenty-seventh session, unanimously recommended the adoption of the 1993 SNA. 5/ It also recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a draft resolution by which the Council would recommend the use of the 1993 SNA in countries. 6/ The Council, at its substantive session of 1993, adopted the draft resolution as resolution 1993/5. The Commission's Working Group, at its sixteenth session, reviewed the implementation of the 1993 SNA as well as plans for further essential research.

The Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA), as the convener of the Task Force on National Accounts, will submit a report dealing with (a) the future role of ISWGNA as a task force in national accounts, including coordination of work programmes on SNA implementation, (b) strategies for implementation of the 1993 SNA, (c) the future research agenda as set out in The System of National Accounts, 1993, 7/ (d) the future data requirements to be met through the SNA questionnaire and (e) ways of including appropriate regional input in the implementation process.

Documentation

Report of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination on its sixteenth session (E/CN.3/1994/2)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on National Accounts (Convener: Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts) entitled "Strategies, progress and problems in the implementation of the 1993 SNA" (E/CN.3/1994/5)

5. Technical cooperation in statistics

The Commission, at its twenty-seventh session, continued to review technical cooperation in statistics. It stressed the importance of coordination of this activity, and the need to improve its efficiency and effectiveness, 8/ and decided to include the item in the agenda of its special session. 9/

The Secretary-General will submit a report on special issues in technical cooperation, including the development of mechanisms to ensure that information on the flow of technical cooperation resources is available for coordination purposes. Global and regional issues related to technical cooperation for new and urgent areas of statistics will be addressed in the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary General on special issues in technical cooperation (E/CN.3/1994/14)

6. Fundamental principles of official statistics

The Commission, at its twenty-seventh session, had before it decision C (47) of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) on fundamental principles of official statistics in the region of the ECE. The Commission expressed support for the ideas underlying the decision. The Commission requested its Working Group to arrange consultations with countries, through the regional statistical divisions, requesting the opinions of countries concerning the possible application and usefulness of the principles set out in ECE decision C (47) at the regional and global levels. It also requested the Working Group to review, at its sixteenth session, the results of the consultations and set up further plans, with a view to preparing a draft set of principles at the world level for submission to the Commission at its twenty-eighth session, in 1995. 10/

The Working Group, at its sixteenth session, decided (a) to request the Statistical Commission at its special session to take note of the Working Group's consideration of the matter and (b) to advise the Statistical Commission to consider the adoption of the fundamental principles as set out in ECE decision C (47) but incorporating a revised preamble (E/CN.3/1994/2, para. 27).

The Commission will have before it the report of the Working Group on its sixteenth session and a report summarizing the results of the consultations with countries referred to above. The Commission will also be informed of the outcome of the Roundtable on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in the Countries in Transition, held at Jachranka, Poland, from 26 to 29 September 1993.

Documentation

Report of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination on its sixteenth session (E/CN.3/1994/2)

Note by the Secretary-General on the fundamental principles of official statistics (E/CN.3/1994/15)

7. Coordination and integration of international statistical programmes

The Commission will have before it the report of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination on its sixteenth session. The report includes the outcome of the Working Group's review of (a) implementation of the 1993 SNA and plans for further essential research (see item 4 above), (b) strengthening international statistical cooperation (see item 3 above), (c) the provisional agenda and documentation for the special session and the twenty-eighth session of the Commission (see item 9 below), (d) fundamental principles of official statistics (see item 6 above) and (e) coordination of statistical data-collection activities of international organizations (see item 3 above).

Documentation

Report of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination on its sixteenth session (E/CN.3/1994/2)

8. Programme questions

(a) Programme performance and implementation

The Secretary-General will submit a progress report on the work of the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat on work done during the period January-December 1993, by subprogramme, including a review of any major problems relating to outputs. This will be supplemented by an oral report.

Documentation

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat (E/CN.3/1994/16)

(b) Programme objectives and planning

The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretary-General providing current information on programme planning in statistics in the United Nations. It will also have initial proposed revisions to the medium-term plan in statistics of the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat, for the period 1992-1997, reflecting decisions taken by the Statistical Commission at its twenty-seventh session and other relevant developments.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on programme planning in statistics in the United Nations (E/CN.3/1994/17)

Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan in statistics for the period 1992-1997 (E/CN.3/1994/CRP.1)

9. Provisional agenda for the twenty-eighth session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure, the Commission will have before it the provisional agenda for its twenty-eighth session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each item and the legislative authority for their preparation.

The provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-eighth session were considered by the Commission at its twenty-seventh session and approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1993/222. At the request of the Commission, 11/ the Working Group, at its sixteenth session, reviewed and amended the provisional agenda and documentation (E/CN.3/1994/2, paras. 45-65).

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the provisional agenda for the twenty-eighth session of the Commission (E/CN.3/1994/L.3)

10. Report of the Commission on its special session

The Commission will adopt the report on its special session, which will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 6 (E/1993/26), chaps. I, Sect. B, and XVI.

2/ Ibid., para. 233.

3/ Ibid., para. 236.

4/ Ibid., chap. II.

5/ Ibid., para. 62 (a).

6/ Ibid., chap. I, Sect. A, draft resolution I.

7/ To be issued.

8/ Ibid., para. 179.

9/ Ibid., chap. I, Sect. B, draft decision II.

10/ Ibid., para. 232.

11/ Ibid., para 237 (b).